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PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN RIDDLES AND NURSERY
RHYMES.

- 1 Was is so weiss wie Schnee,
So grün als Gras,
So rot als Blut,
Un so schwartz als en Hut?
(Schwartz Kirsch.)

What is as white as snow,
As green as grass,
As red as blood,
And as black as a hat?
(Common black cherry.)

- 2 Drunna im Schwam steht en grün Haus,
Im grün Haus is en weiss Haus,
Im weiss Haus is en rot Haus,
Un im rot Haus is es voll klene Schwartze.
Was is es?
(Wassermelon.)

Down in the meadow stands a green house,
In the green house is a white house,
In the white house is a red house,
And the red house is full of little negroes.
What is it?
(Watermelon.)

- 3 En eisner Gaul,
Un en fläche Schwäntzel.
Wie de stärker das des Gäuliche springt
We kürtzter das sei Schwäntzel werd.
(Nodle un Fadern.)

An iron horse,
With a flaxen tail.
The faster that the horse does run,
The shorter does his tail become.
(Needle and thread.)

- 4 Wer es macht, der sagt es net,
Wer es nehmt der kent es net,
Wer es kent der will es net.
(Falsh Geld.)

Whoever makes it, tells it not,
 And whoever takes it, recognizes it not,
 And whoever recognizes it wants it not.
 (Counterfeit money.)

5 Was geht zu der Deer rei un glemt sich net?
 Was geht uf der Ofa un brent sich net?
 Was geht uf der Disch un shamt sich net?
 (Die Sonn.)

What goes through the door without pinching itself?
 What sits on the stove without burning itself?
 What sits on the table and is not ashamed?
 (The sun.)

6, 7. The two following riddles in their setting clearly show that they were brought from the Fatherland, which must have been more than one hundred and fifty years ago. Two young men, both guilty of some capital offence, were brought before the king; who being in a kindly mood promised each one his freedom upon the condition that each one would originate a riddle that neither he nor his court could solve. The first one took a walk along a country road, returned soon, and propounded the following riddle:—

Fert gonné wieder kumme,
 Sechs lebendige im a dote g'funne,
 Seche mache der sievet frei.
 Wer kan roda was des mag sei?

I have gone away, and have come again,
 Found six living ones in a dead one.
 These six shall set the seventh free.
 Who can guess this riddle for me?

When neither the king nor his court were able to offer a solution the young man was called upon to explain. "Why," says he, "it's all very simple. As I was walking along the road I noticed a wren fly up from near the skull of an ox; and upon a closer examination of the skull I discovered in it the wren's nest with six little ones. Hence the riddle."

The second young man went to his home, put on a different pair of shoes, and quickly returned with the following riddle:—

In Inia ghen ich,
 In Inia stehn ich,
 In Inia bin ich
 Hübsh un frei.
 Wer kan roda
 Was des mag sei?

Into Inia I go,
In Inia I stand,
In Inia I am
Happy and free.
Who can guess
This riddle for me.

The king and his court were puzzled. He too was asked to explain. Thus he replied: I had a dog, Inia by name, of whom I was very fond. When this dog died I skinned him, had the hide tanned, and made a pair of shoes out of the leather. When I left the court I went to my house and put on those shoes. Thus:—

In Inia gehn ich,
In Inia stehn ich,
In Inia bin ich,
Hübsh un frei.

Was is das?

8 In Weisenberg im Damm,
Dort wachst en gehli Blum ;
Un wer die gehl Blum will have,
Der mus gans Weisenberg verschlage.
(En Ei.)

At Weisenberg in the dam,
There grows a yellow flower ;
And whoever wishes to get the yellow flower,
Must destroy whole Weisenberg.
(An egg.)

Was is das ?

9 Fässel wohl gebunne.
Um sei leve ken Reef drum kumme.
(En Ei.)

A well bound cask without a hoop.
(An egg.)

Was is das ?

10 Es is en Dierli,
Es heest Maureli,
Es hot nein Häut,
Un beist alle Leut.
(En Zweifel.)

There is a little animal,
Its name is Maureli,
It has nine skins,
And bites every body.
(An onion.)

- 11 Was is das ? fern armer Drop,
 Muss die Steg uf un ab geh uf em Kop?
 (Shuhnagel.)

What poor fellow passes up and down the steps on his head ?
 (Shoe-nail.)

- 12 Was is das ?
 Hobberti Bok uf der Bank,
 Hobberti Bob unich der Bank,
 Es is ken Mann im ganse Land,
 Das die Hobberti Bob fange kan.

- 13 Was is das ?
 Rie, Rau, Ripple,
 Gehl is der Zipple,
 Schwartz is es Loch,
 Wo der Rie, Rau, Ripple,
 Drin kocht.
 (Gehlriev koche.)

Rie, Rau, Ripple,
 Yellow is the scallion,
 Back is the hole,
 In which the Rie, Rau, Ripple boils.
 (Boiling carrots.)

- 14 Was is das ?
 So hoch ass en Haus,
 So nidder ass en Maus,
 So rauh ass en Riegel,
 So glatt ass en Spiegel,
 So bitter ass Gall,
 Un is gut fer uns all.
 (Kesch.)

As high as a house,
 As low as a mouse,
 As rough as a rail,
 As smooth as a mirror,
 As bitter as gall,
 But sweet to us all.
 (Chestnut.)

- 15 En Mühl hat sieve Ecke,
 Im jederm Eck stehne sieve Säck,
 Uf jederm Sack hocke sieve Katze,
 Un jeder Katz hat sieve junge.
 Dann komm der Müller un sie
 Frau noch in die Muhl.
 Wei veil Füß sin noh drim ?
 (Vier Füß, es anner sin Dobe.)

There is a mill with seven corners,
 In each corner stand seven bags,
 Upon each bag sit seven cats,
 Each cat has seven kittens.
 Then the miller and his wife come in the mill.
 How many feet are now in the mill?
 (Four feet. The cats have paws.)

16 Was fern Vogel hot ken Fligel, ken Feddre un ken Schnavel?
 (Mortervogel.)

What bird has no wings, no feathers, and no bill?
 (Hod; mortar bird.)

17 Was fer Eppel wachsa net uf Beem?
 (Maiappel.)

What kind of apples do not grow on trees?
 (May apples.)

18 Was fer Stee hots es menscht im Wasser?
 (Nasse.)

What kind of stones does one usually find in the water?
 (Wet stones.)

19 Was fer Warscht kann mer net essa?
 (Hans warscht.)

What kind of sausages are not to be eaten?
 Clown (John's sausage.)

20 Was steht uf em Fuss urr hots Herz im Kop?
 (Kraut Kop.)

What stands on its foot and has its heart in its head?
 (Cabbage-head.)

21 Was wachst uf seim Schwantz?
 (Rüb.)

What grows on its own tail?
 (Turnip.)

22 Wie is der Buchwetze iver der See komme?
 (Drei-eckig.)

How did buckwheat come across the ocean?
 (Three-cornered.)

23 Was hots Hertz im ganze Leib?
 (En Baum.)

What has its heart in its whole body?
 (A tree.)

24 Wer war gebore un is net gesterve?
 (Du und feil annere.)

Who was born but never died?
 (You and many others.)

25 Wann is en Fuchs en Fuchs?
 Wann er alee is, wann es zwee sin, sins Füchs.

When is a fox a fox?
 (When he is alone.)

26 Was macht heller ass en Licht?
 (Zwee Lichter.)

- What gives more light than a lamp?
(Two lamps.)
- 27 Was guckt em halve Hinkel gleich?
(Die anner helfft.)
What resembles half a chicken?
(The other half.)
- 28 Was is schwartzer ass en Kräpp?
(Die Feddre.)
What is blacker than a crow?
(Its feathers.)
- 29 Was is älter ass sei Mutter?
(Essig.)
What is older than its mother?
(Vinegar.)
- 30 Was fern Esel kann mer net reide?
(Hernesel.)
What kind of a mule can't be ridden?
(Hornet (horned mule).)
- 31 Fer was baue die Bauere der Säustall zwische es Haus un die Scheuer?
(Fer die Säu nü.)
Why do the farmers build their pig-stys between the house and the barn?
(For the pigs.)
- 32 Wo hot der Adam der ersht Nagel hie gschlage?
(Uf der Kop.)
Where did Adam strike the first nail?
(Upon its head.)
- 33 Dei Mutter hot en Kind g'hat, es war net die Bruder un au net dei Schwester. Wer war's?
(Dich selver.)
Your mother had a child, which was neither your sister nor your brother. Who was it?
(Yourself.)
- 34 Was hots grösst Schnubduch in der Weld?
(En Hinkel.)
What uses the largest handkerchief in the world?
(A hen; for it wipes its nose anywhere on the earth.)
- 35 Fer was springt der Fuchs der Berg nuf?
(Fer seine Schwans.)
Before what does the fox run up the mountain?
(Before his tail.)
- 36 Fer was schmokt der Schornstee?
(Veil er net chaue kann.)
Why does the chimney smoke?
(Because it cannot chew.)
- 37 Wie weit fliegt de Grap in der Bush?
(Bis in die mit nau fleight sie widder raus.)
How far does the crow fly into the woods?
(Until she gets into the middle, then she flies outward again.)

COUNTING-OUT RHYMES.

- 1 Ee Kop,
Zwee Kop,
Drei Kop,
Säue Kop.
- 2 Eens zwee drei,
Hücke hocke hei
Zucker uf der Brei,
Peffer uf der Speck,
Hahne geh a weg,
Oder ich schlag dich in der Dreg.
- 3 Bolle wie Salz,
Butter wie Schmalz,
Peffer geht uf,
Wer fangt schmeist druf.
- 4 Eens, zwee, Drei,
Hücke, hocke hei,
Maud hol Wef,
Knecht shenk ei,
Hehr, sauf aus.
Wer muss naus?
Ich, oder du
Oders Berke alte küh, kau Kuh?
Un sell bist du.
- 5 Nodel, Fadern, Fingerhut,
Stoppt der Bauer als so gut.
Wer mus naus?
Ich oder du,
Oder es Berke braune küh, kau Kuh?
Un sell bist du.

CRADLE SONGS.

- 1 Eio Bubbeli schlof,
Der Dawdy hüt die Schof,
Die Mammy hüt die rote Kühe,
Un kommt net Heem bis morgen früh.
- 2 Schlof Bubbeli schlof,
Der Dawdy hüt die Schof,
Die Mammy hüt die Lämmer
In der dunkle Kammer
Die schwartze wie de weise
Sie wolle es Bubbeli beise.

3 Schlof Bubbeli schlof,
 Der Dawdy hüt die schof,
 Die Mammy hüt die Lämmer.
 Nau Bubbeli schlof so viel langer.

4 Heio Bubbeli,
 Was rappelt im Stroh?
 Es Kätzel is gesterve,
 Un es Mäusel is froh.

5 Lieve Mammy bubbel stock,
 Wo wid du naus?
 Uf der Berg Epple lese.
 Won andere Leut zu mittag esse,
 Esse mir zu Morge.
 Won andere Kinner spiele gehne.
 Stehn ich an der wiek.
 Die week macht trip trop,
 Da steckt mei kfeener dück Sock.

ON FATHER'S KNEE.

6 Reite reite Gäuli,
 Alle stun e Meili,
 Alle Meil en Wertzhaus,
 Drink en Glässerl wei aus.

7 Reite reite Gäuli,
 Alle stun e Meili,
 Alle Meil en Wertzhaus,
 Bring ein Daudy en Bretzel raus.

8 Tross tross trill,
 Der Bauer hot en Füll
 Das Füll will net laufe.
 Der Bauer will's verkaufe.

PADDY CAKE.

9 Patsche, patsche Kücheli
 Morge kommt Merüchli
 Un bringt mir un dir en Kücheli.

10 Patsche, patsche Kuche,
 Wolle sie maul versuche,
 Un won sie gut schacke
 Mus die Mammy noch mee backe.

EVENING PRAYER.

Oveds wonn ich schlofe geh,
Vierzeh Engel mit mir gehn,
Zwee decke mich,
Zwee wecke mich,
Zwee Zu Kop,
Zwee Zu Füß,
Zwee links,
Zwee rechts,
Zwee die mit mir gehn
In das himmelische Paradies.

MOCK SERMONS.

- 1 Dau stehn ich uf der Kanzel,
Un bredig wie en Umchell.
Stohre in der Luft,
Der Vater hot geflucht.
- 2 Dau stehn ich uf der Kanzel,
Un bredig wie en Umchell.
Mei Hühn mei Hahn,
Mei Bredig is an.
Mei Kuh mei Kalb,
Mei Bredig is halb.
Mei Katz mei Maus,
Mei Kerich is aus.

Jno. Baer Stoudt.